



Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center

Self-Guided Tour



Core Sound Gallery: 1st Floor



Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center

- The CSWM&HC (a private, non-profit museum) was established in 1992 to support and preserve the way of life of coastal maritime communities in the Down East region of eastern Carteret County.
- The museum tells the Core Sound Story:
 - The history of its communities
 - The perpetuation and support of its local craftsmen
 - The importance of protecting its natural resources
 - The traditions that make up this coastal way of life
- Mission:
 - To establish a facility that will enhance the community, state and region by creating a resource which brings together the historical, cultural, artistic, environmental and educational elements needed to preserve the rich waterfowl heritage of eastern North Carolina associated with the Core Sound area.



Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild

- The Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild was formed in 1987 in a formal effort to renew the craft of decoy carving.
- The mission of the guild is to:
 - Document the history of decoy making and its development as a folk art
 - Increase awareness and appreciation of waterfowl/natural habitat
 - Provide demonstrations
 - Bring people from other waterfowl regions to North Carolina
 - Develop educational youth outreach programs
 - Provide an annual decoy festival to showcase decoy carving and related art
- The 7 men who established the CSWM&HC were all carvers and members of the Core Sound Decoy Carvers Guild.



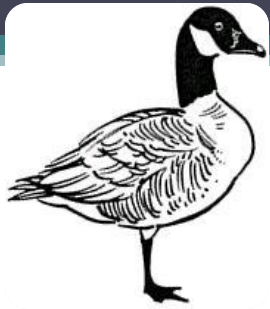
The Building

- The museum makes up a 22,000 square ft. facility that was opened in 2003 and completed in 2009.
- The architectural style is that of a hunting lodge with lifesaving station rooflines.
- The gift shop is the façade of a general store that once operated in Marshallberg and was owned by Ira Lewis.
- The Gathering Room/Billy's Room is in memory of Billy Smith, original founder, chairman, carver, collector and fisherman.
- The Monk Library and Oral History Archive Room is in memory of Robert Monk and is a resource library.
- David's Room (in Education Hall) is in memory of David Lawrence, original founder, artist and carver. This space serves as a carving demonstration area.



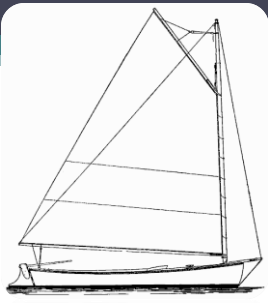
Decoys

- Decoy carving has been a long established tradition in coastal North Carolina.
- The making and use of decoys dates back to the Native Americans.
- Decoys trick waterfowl (ducks, swans, geese) into thinking that there is abundant food and safety in a particular area. The ducks and geese are lured in, making themselves easier targets for the waiting hunters.
- Today decoy carving is an American art form/folk art. Wooden decoys are the most collectible with their value being determined by the carver, the species of waterfowl, and the condition of the decoy.



Decoy Carvers

- Homer Fulcher and Julian Hamilton, Jr. received North Carolina Heritage Awards (which honor the state's eminent resident folk artists) in 1995 for Folk/Traditional Crafts and Visual Arts/Decoy Carver.
- Homer Fulcher was born in Stacy, the top carving community in the county. He learned to carve by watching his father who used scrap wood for his decoys. His father would smooth the edges with broken glass and cover them with boat paint. Homer Fulcher refined his craft and was particularly known for his shorebird carvings.
 - Check out the display of Homer Fulcher's workshop.
- Julian "Jule" Hamilton Jr. was born in Beaufort and was a waterfowl historian and breeder of various species of birds. For him, decoy making was an extension for his love of regional waterfowl.



Spritsail Skiff

- This full-size spritsail skiff was built around 1989 by Julian Guthrie.
- Julian Guthrie, a Harkers Island boat builder, was the recipient of the NC Heritage Award for Folk/Traditional Crafts and Visual Arts/Boatbuilding in 1993.
- Traditionally, spritsail skiffs are no more than 22 feet long. They are fast and easy to maneuver with a sprit-mounted mainsail and a small jib.
- They were used a little like a family pick-up truck and were popular in the shallow waters of Carteret County from the 1880s into the 20th Century.



Jean Dale

- The *Jean Dale* is a 33.6 ft. long Core Sound Sink-netter (commercial fishing work boat) that fished the southern part of Core Sound and the ocean around Cape Lookout for 55 years.
 - Visit the restored *Jean Dale* in the boat shed next to the museum!
- It was built out of Atlantic white cedar by Brady Lewis in 1946 and was restored by Jimmy Amspacher in 2010.
- It has the Harkers Island flare-bow, was a trademark of Harkers Island boat builders, a round stern and low cabin.
- It was owned by Harry Lewis who named the boat after his children, Patty Jean and Dale.



Mailboat

- The mailboat brought mail, freight, and passengers to the people living along the coast before the days of roads and cars/trucks.
- The boat itself was a variation of the shad fishing boats, but tended to be longer, more sleek, with a decorative round or fan-tailed stern and a more powerful engine.
- At the time, written communication was the easiest way for coastal inhabitants to keep in touch. Telephones were few and far between.
- Many people came to the Down East area by mailboat, including new school teachers each fall. They were often called “Mailboat Brides” because they would marry into Down East families and become permanent residents.



Menhaden Chanteymen

- A chantey (pronounced shan-te) is a song sailors sing to the rhythm of their work.
 - The leader usually sings the first line, followed by a response from the crew.
 - The songs are often hymns, gospels, blues, or barbershop quartet songs. Sometimes the lyrics are improvised.
- The menhaden chanteymen were fishermen who caught menhaden (small fish) by encircling large schools of fish in 2 small purse seine boats. The circular purse seine (net) had to be tightened by hand, by drawing it in from the bottom, to capture the fish and lift them to the surface.
 - A scoop net then dipped the fish out of the water and into the hold of the main vessel.
- One catch could hold as many as 100,000 fish.
- After the mid-1950s, the purse seines were tightened by hydraulic winches and lifters instead of by hand.



“Big Boy” Richard Henry

- Richard Henry was born in Beaufort, NC.
- He was a musician, menhaden fisherman, preacher and the operator of a grocery store.
- In September of 1989, he played the blues with Lighten’ Wells in New York’s Lincoln Center. They received rave reviews.
- In 1995 he received the North Carolina Heritage Award for Folk/Traditional Music/Blues.



Baseball

- Baseball was an important past time in Down East Carteret County.
- Every community had its own ball field and adult baseball team. The teams played every Saturday and Sunday.
 - Today Eastern Park in Smyrna is the central location for Down East sports.
- It was an important social activity and brought the communities together. Children played and watched their parents and family members compete on the ball field.
- The schools developed strong athletic programs as well.



Quilts

- Quilting has a strong tradition Down East. You can view many of the quilts on the 2nd floor balcony and in Education Hall.
- The Core Sound Quilters provide quilting demonstrations at the museum every Tuesday.
- Each year they design and create a quilt to be raffled off for Waterfowl Weekend in December.
 - Check out this year's quilt!
- The Community Quilts in Education Hall contain squares donated by local people to honor and memorialize important people and places Down East. There is a book that contains information on each square.

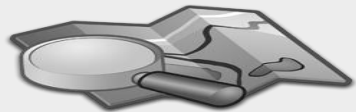


Butterfly Pathway

- The Butterfly Pathway, located in front of the museum, is a flowering garden of highly adapted shrubs and perennials that attract butterflies and other pollinators.
- It is an educational demonstration garden by the NC Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteers of Carteret County.
- For more information on the plants and animals that you might see in this garden, pick up a Butterfly Pathway brochure located along the garden path.



Community Displays : 2nd Floor



Down East Map

- Down East is the local name for the land that stretches from the North River on the east side of Beaufort to Cedar Island, which marks Carteret County's northeastern border. Down East contains a collection of 13 communities.
- The portion of US 70 that runs through Down East is part of the Outer Banks National Scenic Byway. The byway stretches 111 miles from Whalebone Junction in Dare County through Down East.
- The first white settlers here were English and probably from the Tidewater area of Virginia. They migrated here in the mid-1600s through the 1700s.
- Those who lived in the area of Cape Lookout referred to themselves as Ca'e Bankers. Their primary occupations were farming, hunting, and fishing.



Carolina Brogue

- Old world English speech patterns from the early settlers still remain Down East due to the historic isolation of the communities.
- The dialect on Harkers Island very closely resembles the old Elizabethan English of the 1500s and later. Similar dialects are still found on Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay.
- Common words/phrases:
 - “From off”: not a local Down Easter
 - “Mommucked”: taking a beating, bad off, shredded or torn apart



Portsmouth Village

- Portsmouth was chartered in 1753 and was a lightering and fishing community. Lightering is the transfer of goods from ships to smaller and shallower-draft vessels.
- At its height, prior to the Civil War, the population of Portsmouth was about 800 residents.
- The last two residents moved off the island in 1971 after the death of Henry Pigott, the famed African-American man who lived his entire life on the island.
- Portsmouth Island is the northern-most portion of Cape Lookout National Seashore.
 - The park opened new exhibitions at Portsmouth Village in April 2010.



Cedar Island

- Cedar Island is home to the Cedar Island-Ocracoke Ferry, run by the state of North Carolina.
- The Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge is also located in Cedar Island.
- Many species of waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans) stop in the Pamlico Sound and northern Core Sound near Cedar Island on their migratory journey along the Atlantic Flyway.
- Cedar Island is also home to one of Down East's few remaining fish houses, Quality Seafood.



Atlantic

- Atlantic is home to one of the first public high schools in Carteret County. In 1905 the people of Atlantic incorporated to raise tax money to pay for the school.
 - Today the school enrolls students in K-8th grade.
- The Pilentary Hunting Club was located across Core Sound from Atlantic. Franklin D. Roosevelt hunted at the Pilentary while he was the U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Navy.
 - The Pilentary Hunting Club was washed away during the Storm of 1933.
- Today Atlantic Harbor is one of the most picturesque to be found Down East with many old workboats built by well-known Atlantic boat builder Ambrose Fulcher.



Sea Level

- Sea Level is known for its cedar and canvas decoy makers, including Colon Taylor, John Lupton and Harry Hamilton.
- Sea Level Hospital was the first and only hospital ever built Down East, established by the Taylor Brothers of Sea Level who were very successful with their shipping and salt companies.
 - Today it is an extended care facility with a health clinic and pharmacy known as Taylor's Extended Care.
- Sea Level is home to Sailor's Snug Harbor, relocated from Manhattan, New York, in the late 1970s, established by Alexander Hamilton as a home for Merchant Marines.
 - Today it is known as Snug Harbor on Nelson Bay and is an upscale assisted living facility.



Stacy

- Stacy was once home to more decoy carvers than any other community Down East.
- Mitchell Fulcher is the most well-known carver Down East, and his decoys are the most valuable.
 - One of his pintail decoys can be found in the first floor gallery.
- Stacy is the smallest Down East community, with a population of about 200 people.
- The commercial fishery of shedding soft crabs was brought to Stacy from Smith Island, Maryland in the late 1800s, probably the first in area in North Carolina to shed soft crabs.



Davis

- At one time Davis was home to the most hunting and fishing guides Down East. Their homes served as lodges during the season.
- Babe Ruth and other notable people hunted here.
- There was a World War II US Army Camp located in Davis.
- Davis is the home of the Crab Pot Christmas Tree, a folk art adaption of a working crab pot created by Nicky Harvey.
- A vehicle ferry service in Davis can take 4-wheel drive vehicles to Core Banks. This is often used by fishermen.



Williston

- Williston was a prominent boat building center in the late 1800s-early 1900s. Many sharpies were built during this time and were used for oystering and in the menhaden fishery.
- Hi-Tide Boatworks (1950s-early 1970s) was operated by Julian Guthrie of Harkers Island.
 - One of his spritsail skiffs is located in the first floor gallery.
- Willis Brothers Seafood was located in Williston. They specialized in clams and were one of the largest suppliers of clams to the Heinz Food Company.
- There were several grist and saw mills in Williston.



Smyrna

- Smyrna, like Williston, was an epicenter of boatbuilding in the late 1800s-early 1900s.
- Smyrna Elementary School, the largest Down East school, is located in Smyrna.
 - Today it is a preK-8th grade school.
- Smyrna was home to Dr. Josh “Shake It” Davis, a physician and apothecary who made his own medicine.
- The only drive-in theater located Down East was once located in Smyrna.
- A marine railway operated in Smyrna at one time.



Bettie

- Bettie is known as the “Gateway to Down East.”
- It is the first community traveling northeast via Highway 70 as you cross over the North River Bridge.
- The first North River Bridge was built in the 1920s.
- Bettie is a farming community, with cabbage being one of the main cash crops.
- In the past many migrant workers were housed in Bettie as they worked in the fields at harvest time.



Otway

- Otway was named for Captain Otway Burns, an American Privateer during the War of 1812.
 - His ship was named the *Snap Dragon*. He is buried in the Old Beaufort Burying Ground in Beaufort with a cannon from the *Snap Dragon* atop his grave.
- Otway is a farming community and one of the main business centers and crossroads communities of Down East.
- A branch of the Carteret County Public Library is also located here.
- Otway was home to Decator Gillikin, said to be the strongest man Down East. There are many tall tales about Decator, similar to those of Paul Bunyan.



Gloucester

- Gloucester was established by tall ship Captain Joe Pigott in 1910 when he was granted a charter for a US Post Office.
- Capt. Joe Pigott named the community after Gloucester, Massachusetts, where he had visited in his extensive travels.
- A vehicle ferry ran between Gloucester and Harkers Island prior to the construction of the Harkers Island bridge in 1941.
- Gloucester has an annual Mardi Gras event each February.



Straits

- Straits was an early center of boat building in Carteret County.
- The Straits Church was first organized in 1751 as an Anglican Congregation which was taken over by the Methodist Church during the American Revolution. It was then chartered as the Straits Methodist Church in 1778.
- The Methodist Church at Straits was also the home church of the Jones Chapel Methodist Church located on Shackleford Banks in the 1800s.
- There were 3 grist mills located in Straits and Gloucester.



Marshallberg

- Marshallberg is the home port for many commercial fishermen, and it is also known for boat building.
- The first community harbor in Carteret County is located in Marshallberg and was dredged by the Corps of Engineers in the 1950s.
- It was also home to the Graham Academy, a college preparatory boarding school in the late 1800s.
- Captain Fred Gillikin, at one time the oldest living US Coast Guard veteran, lived in Marshallberg. He was honored for his service on his 100th birthday by the Coast Guard.



Harkers Island

- Harkers Island is the largest Down East community with approximately 1,500 residents.
- It is nationally recognized for its boat building.
 - The *Jean Dale*, exhibited outside, is one example of a Harkers Island built boat constructed by Brady Lewis in 1946.
- Electricity was established on the island in 1939 and the bridge opened in 1941.
- Many island residents can trace their ancestry back to whalers living on Shackleford Banks.
- The National Park Service came to Harkers Island in the 1960s. The Core Sound Waterfowl Museum & Heritage Center is located on NPS property.



Promise' Land

- The Promise' Land is located in Morehead City, generally between the blocks of 12th and 15th Street and Evans Street to Bogue Sound.
- It was developed during the 1880s-1890s when fishermen bought land and began to move from Shackleford Banks to the mainland after a series of hurricanes. Houses were disassembled and floated across the sound to be reconstructed in the Promise' Land.
- The story associated with its name has many variations, but most agree that it was the safe, high ground that made it seem like a "Promised" land for many residents and was a reference to the hymn by the same name.
- It remained a community of fishermen and boat builders until the very recent past.



Salter Path

- Salter Path is located on Bogue Banks/Bogue Sound and was one of several “Paths” named after families who wore paths from their homes on the sound-side shore to the ocean.
- Salter Pathers are descendants from the Shackleford Banks and Diamond City communities.
- There are still many natives of Salter Path who are connected to the seafood industry. It is especially well-known for its fall beach seine fishery for roe mullets.
- Salter Path has a rich tradition of sacred music, much like the music found on Harkers Island.



Cape Lookout

- Cape Lookout and nearby Shackleford Banks were home to several communities/family groups, collectively known as Diamond City. The residents were fishermen and whalers.
- A series of storms in the late 1800s gradually drove residents off the island, with the turning point being the Storm of 1899.
- Cape Lookout was first home to the Cape Lookout Life-Saving Station, the Lighthouse Service, and the US Coast Guard Station from 1917-1982 when the station became part of Cape Lookout National Seashore.
- Cape Lookout Village (located near the lighthouse) is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Lookout Tower



Cape Lookout Lighthouse

- Cape Lookout Lighthouse is located on Core Banks which is a part of the Cape Lookout National Seashore.
- The lighthouse you see today was the second one built on Core Banks and was completed in 1859. (The first was built in 1812.) It stands 169 feet above sea level and has 207 steps.
- The light flash pattern for Cape Lookout Lighthouse is one flash every 15 seconds. This light can be seen 20 miles out to sea.
- The day mark pattern of Cape Lookout is called a “diagonal checker” or “diamond” pattern. This day mark is aligned with the black diamonds facing North/South and the white diamonds facing East/West.

Orient Yourself...

- Stand so that Cape Lookout Lighthouse is in directly in front of you. You are facing South.
 - The narrow stretch of land across the water to your right is Shackleford Banks where the Shackleford Horses roam.
 - The body of water between you and Shackleford Banks is called Back Sound.
 - The land on which Cape Lookout Lighthouse sits is Core Banks, which stretches to your left.
 - The body of water between you and Core Banks is Core Sound.
 - The water on the other side of Core Banks is the Atlantic Ocean.
- Core Sound is a shallow body of water approximately 30 miles long and 2-5 miles wide. The depth ranges from 2-4 feet with channels 7-10 feet deep.
- It is believed that Core Sound was named after the Coree Indians, some of the first inhabitants of this area.



Willow Pond

- Willow Pond is a 4 1/2 acre freshwater pond surrounded by a 1/3 mile nature trail through maritime forest and mixed oak-pine woodland.
- It is named for the black willow trees found along the edge of the pond and on the island in the middle.
- Willow Pond provides food, fresh water, and shelter to waterfowl, shore birds, local wildlife, and migratory birds traveling along the Atlantic Flyway.
 - Pick up a Willow Pond Trail Guide to learn more about life in, on, and around Willow Pond.
- A duck blind located on the edge of the pond is reminiscent of the days when Willow Pond was a good hunting spot.